

E. GEORGE SQUIER.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 511.]

MARCH 29, 1860.

Mr. HILL, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of E. George Squier, of New York, submit the following report:

That Mr. Squier was commissioned chargé d'affaires of the United States to Guatemala on the 2d of April, 1849; that besides this commission he was formally accredited as chargé d'affaires to the republics of San Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Honduras, with full powers to negotiate treaties with each of these governments, and did actually negotiate treaties with Guatemala, San Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Honduras, and most faithfully and efficiently represented the interests of the United States at each of these governments; that his services were regarded by the President and the Department of State as of great importance at an interesting period of our history in connexion with those States, and also in connexion with our then pending negotiations with Great Britain. The memorialist claims an outfit to each of these governments to which he was accredited, and also the amount of salary from the date of his leaving Central America (28th of June, 1850) to the termination of his services, (13th September, 1850.)

The rule seems now well established that when a minister accredited to one government is sent by instructions from the State Department to another government also, that then he is entitled to another outfit; and Congress has uniformly made appropriations for such cases. Your committee deem it unnecessary to cite the numerous precedents sustaining this view.

Your committee are of opinion that for each of the governments to which Mr. Squier did actually proceed and remain and negotiate a treaty or treaties, he should receive his proper outfit, corresponding to his grade of service. He did proceed to the capitals of Nicaragua, San Salvador, and Honduras, and did actually negotiate with each of these three powers important treaties, and also negotiated a treaty with Costa Rica.

He has been paid one outfit only. Your committee therefore report a bill for two more outfits at the grade of his service, to-wit: nine thousand dollars (\$9,000) for both; and also his salary from the date of his leaving Central America on leave (28th June, 1850) to the date of his recall, (13th September, 1850,) \$937, which is properly due him.

In an able report on this subject made to the House of Representatives by the Hon. Mr. Sickles, at that time a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, dated May 5, 1858, the precedents for such allowances are enumerated; and appended to that report is the letter of the Hon. Lewis Cass, Secretary of State, bearing most complimentary testimony to the important services rendered by Mr. Squier while abroad as the representative of this government.